

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS
(including amendments, if any)

1. **(currently amended)** A method implemented in a computer system, for clustering a string, the string including a plurality of characters, the method including:

identifying R unique n-grams $T_{1...R}$ in the string;

for every unique n-gram T_S :

if a frequency of T_S in a set of n-gram statistics is not greater than a first threshold:

clustering the string with a cluster associated with T_S ;

otherwise:

for every other n-gram T_V in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S :

concluding that the frequency of n-gram T_V is greater than the first threshold,

and in response:

if the frequency of an n-gram pair T_S - T_V is not greater than a second threshold:

clustering the string with a cluster associated with the n-gram pair T_S - T_V ;

otherwise:

for every other n-gram T_X in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S and V :

clustering the string with a cluster associated with an n-gram triple T_S - T_V - T_X ;

where $T_{1...R}$ is a set of n-grams, R is the number of elements in $T_{1...R}$, and T_S , T_V , and

T_X are members of $T_{1...R}$, **and S, V, and X are integer indexes to identify members of $T_{1...R}$.**

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further including compiling n-gram statistics.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 further including compiling n-gram pair statistics.

4-5. (cancelled)

6. (**currently amended**) A method implemented in a computer system, for clustering a string, the string including a plurality of characters, the method including:

identifying R unique n -grams $T_{1...R}$ in the string;

for every unique n -gram T_S :

if a frequency of T_S in a set of n -gram statistics is not greater than a first threshold:

clustering the string with a cluster associated with T_S ;

otherwise:

for $i = 1$ to Y :

for every unique set of i n -grams T_U in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S :

if the frequency of the n -gram set $T_S - T_U$ is not greater than a second threshold:

clustering the string with a cluster associated with the n -gram set $T_S - T_U$;

if the string has not been associated with a cluster with this value of T_S :

for every unique set of $Y+1$ n -grams T_{UY} in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S :

clustering the string with a cluster associated with the $Y+2$ n -gram group $T_S - T_{UY}$,

where $T_{1...R}$ is a set of n -grams, R is the number of elements in $T_{1...R}$, T_S and T_U are members of $T_{1...R}$, T_{UY} is a subset of $T_{1...R}$, **S , V , and X are integer indexes to identify members of $T_{1...R}$** and i and Y are integers.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 where $Y = 1$.

8. (original) The method of claim 6 further including compiling n -gram statistics.

9. (original) The method of claim 6 further including compiling n -gram group statistics.

10. (**currently amended**) A computer program, stored on a tangible storage medium, for use in clustering a string, the program including executable instructions that cause a computer to:

identify R unique n -grams $T_{1...R}$ in the string;

for every unique n -gram T_S :

if a frequency of T_S in a set of n -gram statistics is not greater than a first threshold:

cluster the string with a cluster associated with T_S ;

otherwise:

for every other n -gram T_V in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S :

concluding that the frequency of n -gram T_V is greater than the first threshold,

and in response:

if the frequency of an n -gram pair T_S - T_V is not greater than a second threshold:

cluster the string with a cluster associated with the n -gram pair T_S - T_V ;

otherwise

for every other n -gram T_X in the string $T_{1...R}$, except S and V :

cluster the string with a cluster associated with an n -gram triple T_S - T_V - T_X ;

where $T_{1...R}$ is a set of n -grams, R is the number of elements in $T_{1...R}$, and T_S , T_V , and T_X are members of $T_{1...R}$, **and S , V , and X are integer indexes to identify members of $T_{1...R}$.**

11. (original) The computer program of claim 10 further including executable instructions that cause a computer to compile n -gram statistics.

12. (original) The computer program of claim 10 further including executable instructions that cause a computer to compile n -gram pair statistics.